

Message

From: EPAResearchCompass [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=C1E8F11508674C3C954553A1129D33E5-EPARESEARCH]
Sent: 4/24/2018 7:26:04 PM
To: ORD-ALL Feds and NonFeds and RSLs [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c735272eef941588aefd9a05ed28823-ORD-ALL Feds and NonFeds and RSLs]
CC: Lincoln, Larry [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8248d03a1441414db7754db201ebec45-Lincoln, Larry]; Barnett, Felicia [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5773b45cae5142fe950861dd6146f1e9-Barnett, Felicia]; Carter, Bobbi [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f16dcafe85fc418ebd1651be2e8ab82d-Carter, Bobbi]; Gettle, Jeaneanne [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d8e72aa7e1894faea44006fd9f22b637-Gettle, Jeaneanne]; Taylor, Dawn [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b984d00ec06544e498ee5d986f97047c-Taylor, Dawn]; Klinger, Adam [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=346d5466632f4967adc7169c8d2ce4fd-Klinger, Adam]; Liljegren, Jennifer [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c7098a838cd34f75b8878571fe95d939-JLiljegr]; Pollard, Solomon [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=16cdf700f8024145847a2770b84abae3-Pollard, Solomon]; Clarage, Meredith [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee9504437be545489f518710a5e80e68-Clarage, Meredith]; Fan, Shirley [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cdeba1df9599435cb7401d0a65be7cda-Sfan02]
Subject: Weekly Compass: April 24, 2018



Weekly Update: 4/24/2018

Welcome to the Weekly Compass, your gateway to information about recent and upcoming ORD activities. If you have ideas for the Weekly Compass, please send them to the editors. To see past issues, visit the Weekly Compass archive on ORD@work.

Weekly Note from Jennifer

ORDers- The Executive Council (EC) had a good meeting in RTP last week. We were updated about the budget and the anticipated operating plan. We also discussed the development of the Strategic Research Action Plans and the recent summit on the Technical Support Centers. We continued our discussion about creating a more sustainable organization and look forward to sharing information in the future.



As you may be aware, Andrew Wheeler was confirmed as the Agency's Deputy Administrator earlier this month. He is now here at EPA, Richard Yamada and I had a meet and greet with him today, and we will be briefing him about ORD next Monday. Previously, Andrew was a Principal and the team leader of the energy and environment practice group at FaegreBD Consulting, as well as Counsel at Faegre Baker Daniels law firm since 2009. Prior to this, he served as Staff Director and Chief Counsel of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works for six years, and before that for the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change, Wetlands and Nuclear Safety. He started his career at the EPA as a Special Assistant in the Pollution Prevention and Toxics office.

OAR's Assistant Administrator Bill Wehrum is visiting RTP on Wednesday, and we are looking forward to giving him a tour of our cookstoves and smog work in the High Bay during part of his visit.

And it's with mixed emotions that we say thank you to NCCT Deputy Director Kevin Crofton who will be retiring at the end of the month. To celebrate his 40 plus years of service to EPA, colleagues and coworkers are coming together today to share their well wishes. ORD recognizes Kevin for his dedication to researching the risks of chemical exposure to the developing brain and for his active participation in the Management Council. I know you all join me in wishing him well in his next adventures!

I hope you all enjoyed Earth Day this weekend, and thank you to all employees who volunteered at associated events across the country highlighting EPA's commitment to protecting our environment. - Jennifer

Quick Updates

- Check out what ORD has planned for Earth Month! And [click here](#) to see all the outreach or service opportunities around ORD locations and who to contact if you want to volunteer to help out!
- Apply to be an Embassy Science Fellow by April 30!
- Check out the current EPA GRIP opportunities. Please contact Jayne Michaud to add an EPA GRIP project.
- No Fear Act Training is now available, training must be done by September 30.
- Don't forget to check out the open opportunities on Talent Hub!
- You can read the This Week @ EPA newsletter [here](#).

- Upcoming webinars:
 - CompTox Communities of Practice: Host-Associated Microbiota Modifies the Toxicity of Environmental Chemicals in Zebrafish: Thursday, April 26, 11-12 ET
 - NERL/A-E/OAR-OAQPS Seminar Series - New Insights in Atmospheric Science: Chemical Product Emissions Emerging as Important Urban Source of VOCs: Thursday, April 26, 2-3 ET
 - Air and Energy Webinar: Emerging Sensor Technologies 2014-2018 Progress Report: Monday, April 30 at 8:30-11:30 am ET and 1:30-4:30 pm ET
 - EPA Tools and Resources Webinar: Multi-media modeling of lead exposure in children and water lead monitoring research to inform public health decisions: Monday, April 30, 3-4 ET
 - ROCS-Net: Regional / State Science Issue Presentations: Tuesday, May 1, 10:30-2:30 ET
 - A-E Connections Call: Wednesday, May 2, 11:30-12:30 ET
 - EPA-Wide IRIS Meeting: Wednesday, May 2, 2-3 ET
 - Wildfire Smoke Research, Toolbox, and Other Resources Webinar: Wednesday, May 2, 3-4:15 ET

Faces of ORD: NERL's Nilla Barros

In the Lab:

Field Studies at Reynolds Metals Company Superfund Site, Troutdale, OR

This week, at the request of Region 10, NRMRL's Robert Ford, Steve Acree, and Randall Ross will travel to the Reynolds Metals Company Superfund Site to demonstrate tools for mapping groundwater and surface water interactions with lakes and rivers that border the site. The planned work will provide Region 10 and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality with tools to evaluate where groundwater may be reaching above-ground levels and entering surface waters near the site. The Reynolds Metals Company site is the former location of the Reynolds/Alcoa aluminum smelter. Activities at the site generated metals-bearing wastes that contaminated soil, groundwater, surface water and sediment.

Interagency Collaborative for Environmental Modeling and Monitoring (ICEMM) Meeting

This week, in Rockville, Maryland, ICEMM will hold a meeting with the six federal agencies, including ORD, cooperating in the research and development of multimedia environmental models, software, and related databases. The public meeting will include information on developments in environmental modeling applications, tools and frameworks, and new operational initiatives among the participating agencies. Brenda Rashleigh, NHEERL's MI to the SSWR research program, will present on the history and priorities of the ICEMM. More information

Sharing Expertise in China

This week, NHEERL's Christopher Lau will present on "PFAS Toxicology and Recent Risk Assessment Activities," at the 2018 International Symposium on Chemical Risk Prediction and Management in Dalian, China. After the symposium, Dr. Lau will visit the School of Environmental Science and Technology at Dalian University of Technology and present a seminar on the same topic. NCCT scientist Maureen Gwinn was also invited to present at Dalian University of Technology on the use of new approach methodologies in chemical risk assessment in the US, specifically related to her work with other international collaborators through the Accelerating the Pace of Chemical Risk Assessment (APCRA) workshops. This effort is an important initiative to increase US and international interaction and engagement related to the safety of chemicals.

ASTM Waste Management Meeting to Develop Consensus Standards

Last week, NERL's Brian Schumacher and John Zimmerman hosted the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Waste Management Committee Meeting (i.e., ASTM Committee D34) at the NERL-Las Vegas facility. The meeting was attended by members representing EPA, states, and industry. Participants discussed and edited multiple consensus standards over the course of the two-day meeting. An ASTM consensus standard is developed by seeking the input of a cross-section of stakeholders with an interest in its use. ASTM technical committees, like ASTM Committee D34, meet as part of the process of standards development.

ECOS Air and Water Calls on Research Planning

In an effort to prioritize states' needs, ORD is coordinating media-specific calls with ECOS and its research arm – the Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS) – to gather information that will inform future planning and contribute to the development of ORD's Strategic Research Action Plans refresh. This week, two calls will be held focused on Air and Water research planning. For these initial project formulation calls, ORD will discuss proposed high level changes/priorities, and how the 2016 ERIS states' research priorities have informed ORD's research planning to date. State media associations have also been invited to participate, as well as EPA program and regional office representatives. The goal is to better connect state research needs with Agency priorities to ensure that ORD's research and development is useful and practical to help states address their on-the-ground problems.

Superfund Support

Last week, Jonathan Essoka, Felicia Barnett, Jan Szaro (OSP) and Dave Burden (NRMRL) discussed potential technical support needs related to passive groundwater and surface water sampling methods at the Central Chemical Superfund Site in Hagerstown, MD. The site is a former pesticide/fertilizer blending and packaging facility where plumes of agricultural pesticides have contaminated the surface and groundwater.

PFAS Support to Region 5

Earlier this month, Carole Braverman (Region 5 RSL) met with representatives from Region 5, OCSPP, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), as well as Mark Strynar, Tim Buckley and others from NERL, to discuss the region's request for ORD assistance related to PFAS. This was in response to concerns raised by MPCA and MDEQ about PFAS generated during industrial chromium electroplating processes.

Also last week, Charles Maurice (OSP) and Carole Braverman (Region 5 RSL), along with Region 5 staff, met with Andrew Gillespie (NERL) during his visit to Chicago, IL, for the Region 5/State Commissioners Meeting. This information-sharing meeting included a discussion of Region 5's PFAS-related issues, needs, and resource capabilities.

Smoke Ready Toolbox for Wildland Fires

Earlier this month, smoke from wildfires in the southern plains spread through areas in KS, OK, TX, AR, and MO. On April 16, Wayne Casio (NHEERL), Kacee Deener (OSP), Monica Linnenbrink (ORD Communications) distributed information about the Smoke Ready Toolbox for Wildland Fires to ORD's public health partners to share with local/state public health practitioners in areas impacted by wildfires. ORD's wildland fire resources can assist public health professionals with developing health risk communications strategies to improve public health outcomes, especially among those at highest risk.

Non-targeted Analysis Workshop Aug 13-15 in RTP

EPA's Non-Targeted Analysis Collaborative Trial (ENTACT) was initiated at a 2015 non-targeted analysis (NTA) workshop. ENTACT has enrolled nearly 30 participants and EPA has received blinded analysis results of 10 ToxCast mixtures and 6 exposure samples from ~15 laboratories. If you are involved or interested in NTA research, we invite you to attend (in person or via webinar) a second workshop to be held in RTP, NC August 13-15, 2018. The workshop website is the best place to see the call for abstracts, register (coming soon), and learn more as the agenda is developed and speakers are selected.

High Throughput Assay for Thyroid Signal Disruption

A NHEERL co-authored paper, "Screening the ToxCast Phase 1 Chemical Library for Inhibition of Deiodinase Type 1 Activity," was one of four highlighted by the editors of *Toxicological Sciences* in the April 2018 issue. The paper reports a method to rapidly screen chemicals for their potential to affect an enzyme that performs a critical role in animals and humans by converting thyroid hormone to its active form. This screening assay was used to assess chemical inhibition of deiodinase type 1 enzyme activity and demonstrated its application to screening large chemical libraries. This work supports the EPA Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program's need for higher-throughput screening assays to identify chemicals with the potential to disrupt thyroid hormone function, as well as the implementation of the Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (TSCA).

Helping Cape Cod Build Resiliency

NHEERL's David Martin has been asked to serve as the EPA representative on a review committee for the Resilient Cape Cod project, organized by the Cape Cod Commission as part of a NOAA Coastal Resiliency grant. The committee is helping develop a resiliency planning tool to help local officials, municipal staff, and others better assess adaptation strategies for dealing with coastal threats. Committee members met for the first time last week. Members include potential users of the tool, technical experts knowledgeable about coastal processes and resilience planning, and individuals who have past experience developing community tools. The committee will provide recommendations for the resiliency planning tool being developed, and will help shape and test the tool before it is finalized.

ROCS-Net

Next week, ORD will hold the Regional-ORD Community of Science (ROCS-Net) Event in Cincinnati, OH. ROCS-Net provides an opportunity for regional staff who have limited familiarity with ORD to visit an EPA research facility and meet with ORD scientists to discuss research priorities, collaborative opportunities and cross-cutting issues. This year, for the first time, scientists from State environmental agencies will participate with the goal of strengthening ORD-Regional-State engagement on science-related activities. On Tuesday May 1, from 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM, participants from regional offices and state agencies will give a series of presentations about high-priority science issues affecting the regions and states. This session will be open to all ORD. More information about the presentation topics and how to attend this session remotely is available [here](#).

SBIR Phase II Solicitation Now Open to Eligible Phase I Recipients

The 2018 SBIR Phase II solicitation was released April 17, and is only open to eligible Phase I awardees from the 2017 cycle. The EPA SBIR team anticipates making approximately five Phase II awards, each in the amount of \$300,000 with a 2-year project period. An additional \$100,000 Commercialization Option is available should the companies secure third-party investment of \$100,000 or more for the commercialization of their technology as they work to bring it to the marketplace. The broad research topics are: Air and Climate, Manufacturing, Toxic Chemicals, Water, Water and Homeland Security, and Greener Buildings.

SBIR Funding Support Leads to Technology License

Ecovative, an EPA SBIR-funded company, recently licensed their MycoFlex™ technology to the company Bolt Threads. MycoFlex™ is a biotextile grown from mushroom mycelium that was developed under EPA's SBIR Commercialization Option, which is currently funding Ecovative, and will be used by Bolt Threads to create a more sustainable version of "leather." This technology is an example of how EPA's investment through the SBIR program can result in the commercialization and distribution of promising environmental technologies. To learn more about the global licensing of this technology and how it will be used, please read the following Forbes Article.

Grantee Publication on Obesity Research

Hypoxia-inducible factor-1 α (HIF-1 α) is a protein found in adipose tissue thought to contribute to obesity and metabolic dysfunction. Little is known, however, regarding the systemic mechanisms of adipose HIF-1 α induced weight gain. Researchers from the NIEHS/EPA Children's Center at Johns Hopkins University studied the mechanisms by which HIF-1 α may induce obesity in a temperature-dependent manner. They hypothesized that HIF-1 α interferes with brown fat thermogenesis, therefore decreasing energy expenditure and causing weight gain. Researchers assessed weight gain, food intake, and activity in mice at both room temperature where brown fat is somewhat active, and at thermoneutrality where brown fat is minimally active. At room temperature, mice that overexpressed the HIF-1 α protein exhibited accelerated weight gain, glucose intolerance, hyperglycemia, and decreased energy expenditure compared to the control group. These changes were minimal at thermoneutrality, indicating that HIF-1 α overexpression inhibits thermogenesis in brown adipose tissue, promoting obesity in cooler ambient temperatures. Future studies should consider the physiologic role of HIF-1 α in mammalian temperature regulation.

Grantee Publication on Silver Nanoparticles in the Waste Stream

Silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) are used in medical and consumer products for their biocidal properties. Because wastewater treatment depends on biological activity, AgNPs presence in the waste stream has become an issue of concern. Scientists at the Center for the Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology (CEINT), funded jointly by the EPA and NSF, have investigated the impact of AgNPs on nitrogen removal -- a critical step in biological wastewater treatment. Results indicated slower microbial community shifts when treated with AgNPs compared to Ag⁺ treatment, indicating a time dependence of Ag⁺ release from AgNPs. In addition, Ag⁺ release from AgNPs was largely coating-dependent and thus a key indicator of AgNP toxicity.

Grantee Publication on Association between Air Pollution and Chronic Bronchitis

Air pollution exposure was found to be associated with chronic bronchitis (chronic cough and sputum production) in a recent study by researchers at the University of Washington. The study was conducted on the large Sisters Study cohort (about 50,000 participants), limiting analysis to never-smokers, and using exposure models to PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, and NO₂ developed for the MESA

Air Study. Association of chronic bronchitis prevalence (i.e. existing cases) were observed for PM10. Associations were also observed for PM2.5 with prevalence of chronic bronchitis and for NO2 with prevalence of chronic bronchitis, cough, and phlegm. No associations were observed for incidence (i.e. new cases) of these respiratory problems, but the authors observe that the limited follow-up time (<6 years) did not offer sufficient power for that analysis, compared to effect prevalence. The effects reported were independent of each other, and the authors believe this is the first reported observation of an independent association of PM10 with chronic bronchitis. These results may be relevant to PM10 and multipollutant policy.

Visit to the Australian Institute of Marine Science

A few weeks ago while in Australia, Bruce Rodan visited the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS). While touring the facility, he met several of the lead scientists--one of whom happened to be Dr. Carly Randall, a former Student Services Contractor for EPA's GED. Dr. Randall is originally from Rockville, MD. She completed her PhD at the Florida Institute of Technology and is now at AIMS as a Post-Doctoral Fellow on Coral Recovery. She says that time at GED with the coral team was a wonderful experience, which helped prepare her for her current position at AIMS. She is currently working on reef restoration efforts, noting the coral bleaching episodes and enhancing response capability.



In the Office:

Pathfinder Innovation Projects

The internal RFP for Pathfinder Innovation Projects (PIP7) was announced on April 12th, with proposals due on May 25th. The Innovation Team is now organizing webinars and outreach to encourage creative proposals. ORD senior leaders can help spread the word and stimulate ideas that respond to EPA research priorities

COR Training

ORD and OAM Strategic Partnership Webinars (uncaptioned and captioned versions) are now available on the intranet under the heading NEW 2017/2018 COR TRAINING COURSES. The webinars are 1 hour or less and address topics CORs and their managers identified as important to them: Tips for Preparing Advanced Procurement Plans (APPs) in EAS, Independent Government Estimates (IGE), Severable vs. Non-Severable Services and Contract Funding Implications, The Technical Evaluation Process, Tips for Preparing Requisitions and Task Orders in EAS, Financial Management of Contracts and Contract Funding Implications, and Understanding Performance Based Acquisitions. CORs can also download hard copies of each presentation as a desk reference. ORD's intranet site also contains other training given by the Office of Administrative Research Support's Extramural Management Division, Contracts Management Branch (CMB) on the Federal Technology Transfer Act (FTTAs) and Technical Direction. Each webinar is worth 1 continuous learning point (CLP). After viewing the webinars, CORs can self-certify in FAITAS to receive credit. No certificates will be issued.

iThenticate Now Available

EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy encourages the publication and presentation of research findings and the communication of scientific information to the public. The Scientific Integrity Program is pleased to announce that iThenticate, a software that verifies the originality of one's writing, is now available to all EPA employees. The Scientific Integrity team is providing this as an educational service for EPA authors and supervisors to check their own draft documents for accurate representation of source materials. Information gained from using iThenticate should not be used to support a punitive action. To submit a paper, report, article, or publication for review through iThenticate, please visit <https://intranet.ord.epa.gov/scientific-integrity/ithenticate>. If you have questions about the appropriate use of iThenticate, please contact the Scientific Integrity Official, Francesca Grifo, at Grifo.Francesca@epa.gov.

Survey Reminder

Some EPA employees have received emails from Policy Brand asking them to participate in a survey regarding policy and advocacy. Agency ethics guidelines do permit employees to take the survey, as long as they follow the guidelines below. For additional information, please see OGC's quick ethics tip on answering surveys from outside EPA.

- You cannot use government time to respond to the survey.
- You should not use your government computer to respond to the survey.
- You can't divulge nonpublic information in completing the survey.
- Pay attention to how the survey identifies you. You aren't representing EPA but rather sharing a personal opinion. Remember that you cannot identify yourself solely by reference to your EPA title or position (The ethics rule is that mention of EPA affiliation is permitted as one of several biographical details, if given no more prominence than the others).

Accolades:

Overall *Journal of American Water Works Association (AWWA)* Best Paper Award

For the second time in four years, a team from NRMRL has been awarded the *Journal of the American Water Works Association* 2018 Publications Award. The authors are Lauren Wasserstrom (former post-graduate student contractor), Stephanie Miller (former graduate student intern), Simoni Triantafyllidou (NRMRL, previously ORISE post-doctoral researcher), Michael DeSantis (Pegasus contractor, previously ORISE post-doctoral researcher), and Michael Schock (NRMRL). This award recognizes the journal's overall best paper, chosen from among the winning papers for the seven AWWA divisions. The winning paper is titled, "Scale Formation Under Blended Phosphate Treatment for a Utility with Lead Pipes." This award highlights a collaboration between EPA staff, graduate student research programs, and onsite contracting programs, working in EPA-Cincinnati's Advanced Materials and Solids Analysis Core (AMSARC) laboratory facilities. The paper also won the 2018 AWWA Water Science and Research Division Best Paper Award.

Homeland Researcher Receives Arthur S. Flemming Service Award

NHSRC's Dr. Jeffery Szabo was selected as the recipient of the 2017 Arthur S. Flemming award, a prestigious award that honors outstanding federal employees. Under Dr. Szabo's direction, the Water Security Test Bed (WSTB) was designed and built at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL), a first-of-its-kind, multimillion dollar field scale water distribution system. Dr. Szabo was nominated for his innovative vision and leadership in advancing the Nation's understanding of the fate, persistence and transport of contaminants in drinking water distribution systems, and

in wastewater treatment. Research conducted at the WSTB has proven invaluable, greatly enhancing the Nation's knowledge of how to decontaminate drinking water distribution systems and the water sector's ability to respond to a chemical, biological and radiological incident. This is highlighted by the fact that Dr. Szabo's research helped water systems respond to actual contamination incidents such as the chemical spills in West Virginia in 2015, Corpus Christi in 2016 and a number of oil spill incidents across the Nation. The honorees will get recognized in a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in June.

Federal Service Excellence Awards Program, Erlanger, KY

Two NRMRL employees have been nominated for 2018 Federal Service Excellence Awards: Roy Haught for an individual Professional/Scientific Award, and Marc Mills and his NHSRC colleagues on the Water Security Test Bed Team for the Project Team Award. The Greater Cincinnati Federal Executive Board's Federal Service Excellence Awards Program showcases the exceptional work of Federal agencies in the Cincinnati area, and gives the EPA community an opportunity to honor the significant contributions of our staff in protecting human health and the environment.

OW Honor Awards

EPA's Honor Awards are given to recognize individuals and teams who have worked hard to achieve Agency goals and objectives. The Office of Water Honor Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday in Washington, D.C.

- The Legionella Control Technologies Team won an award in recognition of its success in advancing the knowledge of Legionella control in premise plumbing. NERL's Jingrang Lu and Stacy Pfaller and NRMRL's Mike Elovitz, Darren Lytle, and Jonathan Pressman are recipients of a 2016 Office of Water Award for Achievement in Science and Technology. The award given to the team distinguishes the group as being especially committed to advancing clean and safe water and healthy communities and ecosystems through their sustained effort, skill, and collaboration.
- The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule Team, which includes NRMRL's Sandhya Parshionikar, won a 2016 OW Bronze Medal. The team was recognized for their exceptional accomplishments in implementing monitoring for the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR-3) and promulgating the next UCMR.
- The ORD/Office of Policy/OW Collaborative Water Quality Benefits Team, which includes NRMRL's Matt Heberling, won the 2016 Partners of OW Award. The team won this award for their extraordinary cooperation and support in helping OW improve its benefits estimation capabilities through the Water Quality Benefits project.

In the News:

Newsletter Article on Harmful Algal Blooms

NRMRL, NERL and OW co-authored a short article, "EPA Efforts to Address Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Impacting Drinking and Recreational Water," published in the European Cooperation in Science and Technology's March/April 2018 issue of CYANOnews. The article provides an overview of EPA's efforts to address HABs in surface and drinking water, including monitoring and development of health risk assessments. Authors are NRMRL's Nick Dugan, Blake Schaeffer and Jim Lazorchak (NERL), and Lesley D'Anglada (OW). CYANOnews is the bimonthly newsletter of CYANOCOST, a European-based network for providing knowledge and tools on toxic cyanobacteria to end-users.

In the Community:

EPA-RTP STEM Outreach Program

- On Sunday, the program hosted a booth at the Durham Earth Day Festival at Central Park in Durham.
- Yesterday, the program participated in the 3rd annual Women in STEM event at Apex Friendship High School in Apex. The event is hosted by the Apex Friendship High School Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Club and is sponsored by the Enterprising Women Magazine and the North Carolina Chapter of the American Chemical Society.
- Today, the program will host an EPA booth at Hunt High School's Health Fair in Wilson, present about Environmental Management Systems at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro.
- On Wednesday, the program will host students from the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) for a morning of building and lab tours, lead a hands-on activity about urban heat island at Lowes Grove Middle School in Durham and participate in a wrap-up event for this year's EPA and Hillside High School Mentorship Program, in partnership with STEM in the Park.
- On Thursday, the program will host a guided tour and research update as part of the North Carolina Science Festival, participate in Graham High School's Career Fair, present a hands-on water quality activity to students at Hope Creek Elementary School in Durham, and host a booth at the Sustainability Expo hosted by BASF's Research Triangle Park Sustainability Group in order to inform employees of the many sustainable practices implemented by companies and organizations throughout the Triangle.
- On Friday, the program will present about sustainability at Galloway Ridge-- a retirement community in Pittsboro, present several hands-on activities to third grade students at White Oak Elementary School in Apex and host an EPA booth at Earth Evening in Hillsborough.

Faces of ORD: NERL's Nilla Barros



Name: Nilla Barros

Job/Position: ORISE Post Doc Participant

L/C/O or Program: NERL/SED/EFAB in Research Triangle Park, NC

1. When did you start at EPA? I started in April 2016.

2. What's the most interesting thing about your job? The most interesting thing about my job is to help fill information gaps. Through data-mining techniques, I was able to characterize ecological conditions and amount of pollution around schools on Tribal lands through novel linkages of 4 national datasets.

3. What's the most interesting thing in your workspace? The most interesting thing in my workspace is all the white space on my desk. Usually, I have nothing on my desk to help me focus!

4. What's your favorite thing to do (besides come to work)? My favorite thing to do is to walk around a nearby lake. It's a great spot where I can admire the wildlife and think creatively.

5. What's your favorite lunch spot? My favorite lunch spot is Dim Sum House in Morrisville, North Carolina. I love having dim sum (a kind of Chinese brunch) on Sundays. You can invite your friends and family and sit around a round table and share lots of small plates of a variety of Chinese dishes.

6. If you could have one superpower, what would it be? It would be to work faster so I can double the time I spend outdoors!

7. Describe any steps you take in your daily life to protect the environment.

- I park my car in the shade in the summer to keep it cool.
- I drink coffee, tea, and water from a reusable bottle.